

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

January 12, 2015

www.op97.org

Important Dates

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| January 12 | IB Middle Years Program Information Night - Brooks |
| January 15 | IB Middle Years Program Information Night - Julian |
| January 16 | Institute Day - No School |
| January 19 | Martin Luther King's Birthday - No School |

News

IB Middle Years Program Information Night

Current fifth grade parents/guardians from the elementary schools are invited to attend a brief presentation about how the implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program will enhance the educational experience for our middle school students.

Presentations will be at Brooks on January 12 and at Julian on January 15. Depending on your schedule, parents are welcome to attend the presentation at either school.

Snow Gear

Please remember that all students go out for recess and need hats, gloves, and mittens. Many students are coming in from recess with wet feet. You may want to send in an extra pair of socks as well.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th graders are continuing their unit on composition. We will be learning how to create a focal point in our drawing by using leading lines and contrast. We will be looking at current movie posters to see the principles of composition in action!

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Due to our snow day, we will be continuing last week's rhythm reading activities.

Chorus and Gold Belt - Chorus and Gold Belt will be working on songs this week for their assembly in January and the choral festival.

Spanish - Welcome back and feliz año nuevo!! The classes will be changing groups this week and beginning a new story.

Library - This week we will be hearing book talks about the Reading Olympics spring books. A book talk is essentially a quick, informative presentation about a book, designed to engage the listener and inform him/her of the book. A list of the Reading Olympics books, as well as a short trailer created by Ms. Rolfes, the librarian from Mann, can be found on the library home page by clicking on Reading Olympics. Students will also begin to form their Reading Olympics teams for the spring. This extracurricular activity is voluntary, but all students are encouraged to participate! Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions or concerns. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

Physical Education - Coming for the entire month of February is Gymnastic Unit. The kids will be swinging, hanging, climbing, rolling, cartwheeling, somersaulting, and many other equilibrium building balancing acts. (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Reading/Literature

This week we will continue a mini-unit centered on how multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, and beauty of texts. By analyzing illustrations from Calvin and Hobbes students will see how shapes and composition affect meaning. Then, students will apply what they have learned by examining a wide variety of picture books. We will also be reading a wordless picture book called The Arrival. By carefully examining the pictures students will be able to derive story and themes from the book.

Writing

Math

In math, we continue to work on addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers. Students will use two methods for subtracting mixed numbers. The first method requires students to convert the mixed number to an improper fraction before subtracting. In the second method, students will decompose the mixed number into a whole number and a fraction before subtracting from the whole number. For example $2\frac{1}{5} - \frac{3}{8}$ is rewritten as $2 - \frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{5}$. MAP testing begins this week. Students in 5M and 5P will take the math MAP this Tuesday during their math classes. Students in 5K and 5F will take the math MAP test next Tuesday, January 20.

Science

In science this week, we will continue to focus on our April 16 science fair. Students will begin with a research paper on their topic and then develop a testable question. We will have a timeline with multiple check-ins to ensure that students don't fall behind. For more information about the project, visit the wiki at this link: <http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>
Please contact your child's science teacher with questions about the project.

Social Studies

Students will continue to learn about the Columbian Exchange. Through a trading activity 5th graders will learn about the products that were exchanged between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres during the sixteenth century. In Social Studies we will also learn about Conquistadores and their effect on the Americas.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We will review prefixes a-/ab-/abs- and super-/sur- by playing various games.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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